Virtual ADL Foreign Language Technology Center & Automated Foreign Language Oral Proficiency Interviews (OPI)

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Joint ADL Co-Lab

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Overview

- The Co-Lab System
- Virtual ADL Foreign Language Technology Center
  - Role of University of Wisconsin
- Automated Oral Proficiency Interviews (OPI)
  - Role of BYU
- Path Forward
  - DLO and DLI
- Your Input and Questions

The Co-Lab System

- Four Co-Labs
- Sponsored by USD(P&R)
  - Dr. Bob Wisher, Director, ADL Initiative
- Two Government Labs
  - Hub Co-Lab (Policy), Alexandria, VA
  - JADL (Research), Orlando, FL
- Two Government Sponsored
  - Academic Co-Lab, University of Wisconsin
  - Workforce Co-Lab, University of Memphis

Virtual ADL Foreign Language Technology Center

- Why – Promote cost-effective research, development, and demonstration of foreign language and regional expertise education and training tools and content
  - Virtual capability provides opportunity to:
    - Test Proposed language and regional expertise ed and tng solutions in a controlled environment on range of vendor platforms/systems/devices
    - Demonstrate interoperability
    - Showcase new and innovative ed and tng tools and solutions
    - Focus collaborative efforts between Gov and industry

Virtual ADL Foreign Language Technology Center

- Agreement signed 5 Feb 2007
- Task added to University of Wisconsin Coop Agreement
  - Research best application of mobile computing, including personal digital asst, cell phones, MP3 players in support of:
    - Learning a foreign language
    - Becoming familiar with a foreign culture
    - Gaining regional expertise
  - With DLIFLC, develop one hour of content in MP3 format on regional expertise suitable for podcasts

Virtual ADL Foreign Language Technology Center

- University of Wisconsin / Fox Valley Technical College has:
  - Created video training on 4 languages deployable on iPods and cell phones
    - Languages:
      - Arabic
      - Chinese
      - Russian
      - Spanish
  - Currently undergoing testing; expect out brief June 07

Foreign Language Oral Proficiency Interviews (OPI)

- Requirement to increase capacity for foreign language OPI in languages of critical importance to DoD for Global War on Terrorism
- Current Process
  - OPI administered face-to-face or telephonically by trained and certified testers
    - Most testers are DLIFLC instructors
  - Scheduling and testing labor intensive
- Proposed
  - Web-based process for scheduling and scoring computer-based speaking tests

Foreign Language Oral Proficiency Interviews (OPI)

- Testing evaluation criteria includes:
  - Use authentic language – not scripted
  - Measure functional ability
  - Measure level 0 to Level 3 on ILR* scale
  - Comparable reliability to that of current human testers
- Establishing Coop agreement with BYU to develop this automated testing process
  - Dr. Ray Clifford POC at BYU

*ILR – Interagency Language Roundtable

Path Forward

- Just moving into the area of language and culture
  - Lots of interest across the ADL/DL community
  - Establishing it as a priority within JADL
- Recent meetings with DLO staff in DC

Inputs / Questions

- JADL role is to help implement ADL within the Services – let us know what you are looking for
- Questions?
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